

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 11685 181832Z
ACTION CU-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11685

FOR: STATE CU/WE, USIA IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SEDU, IT
SUBJ: ENROLLMENT OF U.S. STUDENTS IN ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES:
REACTION OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 151551 (B) ROME 10849

THOUGH SOME NATIONS AFFECTED MORE DIRECTLY THAN OTHERS, MOST
SEEK CLARIFICATION, SEEM UNAWARE OF POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS TO BAN,
AND SHARE USG FRUSTRATION. GOI OBVIOUSLY UNDER CONSIDERABLE
PRESSURE FROM MOST EMBASSIES TO EXPLAIN DECISION. BILATERAL
AGREEMENT WILL LIKELY ALLOW MOST COUNTRIES SATISFACTION OF
WEASELING THROUGH LOOPHOLES, UNLIKE U.S., WHICH FALLS OUTSIDE
EXCEPTIONS PRESENTED PARA 3 REFTEL (B).
HEREWITH SAMPLING OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS' REACTIONS:

1. THE GREEKS, WHO HAVE BY FAR THE LARGEST NUMBER OF AFFECTED
STUDENTS, ARE PROBABLY MOST ACTIVE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

2. IRANIANS, WHO LIKEWISE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS
INVOLVED, SHARE GENERAL UNHAPPINESS. LIKE MOST OTHER
GOVERNMENTS, THEY SEEKING CLARIFICATION, HOPING FOR
RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION.

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3. BRITISH COUNCIL DIRECTOR, THOUGH UNAWARE OF BAN AT TIME
OF OUR CALL, SUSPECTED IT COULD NOT BE SUSTAINED. ONLY
HANDFUL OF BRITISH STUDENTS AFFECTED IN ANY CASE. JAPANESE
SITUATION APPEARS TO BE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR.

4. GERMANS PARTICULARLY STRESS HIGH-LEVEL CHARACTER OF
DECISION. HAVE MAJOR PROBLEM WITH STUDENTS WHO STUDIED

ITALIAN LONGER THAN A YEAR AND HAVE COME TO ITALY ON QUOTE
PROMISE UNQUOTE OF GOI THAT THEY COULD STUDY HERE. (NOTE:
NUMBER OF GERMAN UNDERGRADUATES IN ITALY IS ABOUT 1,000,
BUT NUMBER OF ITALIANS IN GERMANY IS EVEN HIGHER.)

5. INDIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT HAS NO PROBLEMS INASMUCH
AS FEW STUDENTS INVOLVED (MAINLY IN LANGUAGE AND MEDICAL
PROGRAMS) HAVE ITALIAN OR VATICAN SPONSORSHIP.

6. CANADIAN SITUATION CLOSELY PARALLELS OURS. GARDNER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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